

entirely non-partisan, it being the general sentiment of the Convention that the people in their sovereign capacity had the right to elect whomsoever they pleased to represent them in that body, even the Convention Bill to the contrary, though some based their position on different interpretations of that instrument.⁴⁴

The Convention held one session a day till July 21, when it was decided to meet in the evening as well, on every working day except Saturday.⁴⁵ These latter sessions were not attended very well as a rule, there being no quorum present on eight different evenings. There was much delay in the work of the Convention, the larger part of the new Constitution as finally adopted being passed during the last six weeks of the session. The long discussion of the Declaration of Rights and the interruptions consequent upon the pressure of outside affairs as stated above, were largely responsible for this. As the people of the state were beginning to show impatience,⁴⁶ the general result was haste towards the end, although this caused additional mutterings. Three sessions were held each day during the five days preceding adjournment.

The Convention finally adjourned on Tuesday, September 6, 1864, having passed a resolution that, in view of the uncertain condition of affairs in the state "which might interfere with the expression of the popular will on the day to be fixed for voting on this Constitution," the adjournment was subject to the call of the president, and in case of his death or disqualification, Messrs. Schley, Pugh, Stockbridge and Purnell were authorized, in the order named, to act as president and call the Convention together.⁴⁷

A resolution of thanks to President Goldsborough for his "dignified, efficient and impartial discharge of the duties of the chair" was offered by Mr. Chambers, and unan-

⁴⁴ Deb., ii, 764-8; iii, 1730.

⁴⁵ "American," June 10, Aug. 2; Frederick "Examiner," June 22; Deb., i, 98, 148, 204-5, 322-4.

⁴⁶ Proc., 272.

⁴⁷ Proc., 600, 773.